



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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*Memorandum*

TO: Policy Advisory Council  
FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison  
RE: Staff Liaison Report – January 2015

DATE: January 7, 2014  
W.I. 1114

**Second YES Conference Scheduled for February 7**

Students from throughout the nine counties in the Bay Area will gather at MTC on Saturday, February 7 for the second Youth for the Environment and Sustainability (YES) Conference. The free day-long regional conference brings together Bay Area middle- and high-school students to discuss transportation, clean air, climate change and a healthy San Francisco Bay Area. The event builds on the first YES Conference, held in November 2013, which brought together some 90 students from around the region for a full day of inspirational presentations, brainstorming and idea-sharing.

Students are encouraged both to sign up to attend the event and to get involved developing the day's activities. Students, teen leaders, teachers and youth advisors can submit proposals for making a presentation, leading or participating in a panel discussion or guiding an interactive session.

Free shuttles from the North Bay and the South Bay will be available for students without easy public transportation to Oakland, there is no registration fee for the event, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. Students must have a signed parental permission slip in order to attend the event.

For information on the YES conference and to register go to:  
[http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/12-14/yes\\_15.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/12-14/yes_15.htm)

Also check out the YES Facebook page at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/YouthfortheEnvironmentandSustainability?fref=nf>

**Cap and Trade Update – Low Carbon Transit Operations Program**

At the January 14<sup>th</sup> Programming and Allocations Committee meeting, staff will recommend the programming of \$2.4 million in Cap and Trade – Low Carbon Transit Operations Program population-based formula funds to transit operators based on the Commission's December 2013 adoption of the Cap and Trade/Core Capacity framework (MTC Resolution Nos. 4123 and 4130) for the roughly \$3.1 billion estimated over the Plan Bay Area 25-year timeframe. Specifically, the programming supports the Cap and Trade framework's \$500 million transit operating and

efficiency commitment, although the amount of funds available for this initial year is relatively low statewide (\$25 million) and for the region (\$2.4 million). Staff recommends a review of the distribution framework after the FY 2014-15 programming round that considers actual revenue from initial Cap and Trade auctions, additional guidelines and direction from the state agencies, and further stakeholder outreach.

Questions regarding the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program should be directed to Kenneth Folan ([kfolan@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:kfolan@mtc.ca.gov)).

### **MTC Gets Two New Commissioners with More to Follow**

Last fall's elections created not only a change for local officials, but also changes to MTC's Commission.

Councilmember **Jason Baker** from the City of Campbell was appointed to represent the cities of Santa Clara County, replacing Los Gatos Councilman Joe Pirzynski who did not seek re-election. In addition, due to the election of former Commissioner Bill Dodd to the California State Assembly, MTC's Napa County/Cities seat became vacant, and Napa County Supervisor Mark Luce has been appointed to complete the remainder of Dodd's term. **Julie Pierce**, who is a City of Clayton Councilmember and ABAG President, is replacing Mark Luce as ABAG's representative on MTC.

In December, former Oakland Mayor Jean Quan attended her last meeting as the Commission's representative from the City of Oakland, leaving the seat vacant for the moment, and there are other Commission changes possible. In February, the Commission will vote in a new chair and vice chair for the next two-year term, so I will report back to you at that time.

For an online list of the current Commission (including links to their local elected biography), visit MTC's web site at: [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about\\_mtc/commissioners/](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/commissioners/)

### **City CarShare to Expand in the East Bay**

City CarShare will expand its carsharing network to under-served East Bay communities in collaboration with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and the Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC). The program will deploy vehicles in Richmond, El Cerrito and Oakland, and includes electric vehicles, fuel-efficient hybrids, and a wheelchair accessible van. The program, called CarShare4All, is partially funded through an MTC grant.

City CarShare, the nation's largest nonprofit carsharing organization, serves nearly 16,000 members in the Bay Area. Over 60% of its locations are in designated low/moderate income neighborhoods. Nearly 200 of its cars are within walking distance of major transit lines and over 50% of its carsharing fleet is battery-based (hybrid, plug-in electric hybrid and all battery electric). The CarShare4All program supports a common goal among City CarShare, the CCTA, and BACC, which is to expand green transportation choices to all constituencies. Carsharing enables individuals to reduce their dependence on private transportation. When fully deployed CarShare4All is projected to yield as much as 3 million lbs. of CO2 reduction per year.

For more information on City CarShare's expansion and the CarShare4All program, go to: [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/12-14/carshare.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/12-14/carshare.htm)

## **Green Light for Bay Lights**

The Bay Lights – a massive installment of 25,000 energy-efficient LED lights on the West Span of the Bay Bridge – was unveiled in March of 2013 as a temporary adornment to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bridge. But during its year-and-a-half run, the dazzling light display has garnered a following, bringing walkers and bikers to San Francisco’s waterfront, and it is now a treasured piece of the bridge with many admirers.

Illuminate the Arts, the nonprofit that conceptualized the Bay Lights, received a \$2 million challenge grant from a philanthropist to convert the temporary art project into a permanent fixture of the skyline. The challenge grant inspired \$1.7 million in private gifts by December 11<sup>th</sup>, with the balance of the funding completed by December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Adding to the good news, in December, the Bay Area Toll Authority approved funding for the operation and maintenance of the LED installation when it becomes a permanent feature, at a cost of \$250,000 a year.

Future plans call for removal of the current temporary installation in March 2015 and reinstalling a more robust network of LEDs by early 2016, in time for the Super Bowl, which will be held in February 2016 at the new Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara.

For more information on the permanent Bay Lights project and to view video footage, go to: [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/12-14/permanent\\_bay\\_lights.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/12-14/permanent_bay_lights.htm)

## **Executive Director’s Report**

The following items were in the December 2014 Executive Director’s Report to the Commission:

- ***BART OAC Ribbon-Cutting – November 21***  
A horde of dignitaries – including Chair Worth and Commissioner Haggerty – spoke at the grand opening of BART’s cable car line connecting the Coliseum Station to the Oakland International Airport. The project was many years in the making, and involved a prominent role for the Commission in identifying the last dollop of funding to be secured before it moved into construction. For those keeping score, that’s now two Bay Area international airports with rail connections, and one to go. Thanks to Commission funding, SMART also will be providing rail service to the Sonoma County Airport when it debuts in 2017.
- ***SANDAG Loses Appeal – November 24, San Diego***  
A divided three-judge panel of the Fourth District Court of Appeal handed the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) its second straight loss over the validity of its environmental review of the state’s first Sustainable Communities Strategy. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, SANDAG decided to appeal this adverse decision to the California Supreme Court. MTC joined an amicus brief during the appellate stage, and we expect to file another on SANDAG’s behalf before the Supreme Court.

**Executive Director's Report (continued)**

- ***Kempton to Head CTC – December 10, Sacramento***  
The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has announced that former Caltrans Director Will Kempton will become its next executive director in January 2015. This also means that Will will be rejoining me as a member of the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee (TBPOC). As the French like to say: *Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose*.

\*To read the December 2014 Executive Director's report to the Commission in its entirety, go to [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed\\_report.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm).